

AWARDS 2007 HANDHELDS

EXPERT'S REPORT

In last year's *Shopper Awards*, we remarked upon the decline of the PDA and the rise of the smartphone. This year, that trend has continued, with Nokia extending its smartphone operating system across its entire business range.

We've also seen a wealth of BlackBerry rivals with QWERTY keyboards running Windows Mobile, which are perfect for messaging. Standalone satellite navigation units have become more powerful and cheaper, with the result that a capable GPS system can be yours for just £130.

Picking our winners was no easy task, as there are so many different types to choose from. Our winners represent the best from each category. There's a compact smartphone, a messaging smartphone, a standalone GPS and a high-specification cameraphone. Together they're the best portable technology that money can buy.

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NOKIA E65



With all the hype about the iPhone being a 'revolutionary internet communication device', it's easy to forget that there are phones available for a fraction of the iPhone's price that can do everything Apple's forthcoming handset can. Nokia's E65 is one such phone. It has a superb web browser, a powerful email client, comprehensive support for Office documents and a music and video player, all free with a mobile phone contract.

The E65 is slim and stylish, too. Its large screen, silver front and leathery rubber rear mean it looks great and is comfortable to hold. Many phones try and balance a large screen with a compact size by shrinking the keypad, but the E65's slide-out keypad means it's compact yet has large and easy-to-use number keys. You can operate most of the phone's functions without sliding it open, as the front of the phone has a directional keypad and short cut buttons for contacts and messaging, as well as call answer and end buttons.

It's easier to get online with the E65 than with most smartphones. It has built-in 802.11b/g wireless networking, and there's a short cut to the wireless application on the home screen that searches for nearby wireless hot spots and prompts you for a WEP or WPA network key. It's a far cry from the maze of menus and submenus you need to navigate on some

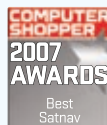
smartphones to get connected. When you're out of range of a wireless network, the E65 can connect to the internet with GPRS or 3G, the latter giving near-broadband speeds.

We've long been fans of the E65's Symbian Series 60 3rd Edition web browser. While all smartphones have web browsers capable of displaying full webpages, none does such a good job as Nokia's latest. Most mobile browsers work best when the webpage is reformatted to fit the screen, but the E65's browser is designed to display webpages in their original format.

Rather than using the directional keypad to scroll through the links on the page, as on Windows Mobile phones, you navigate pages on the E65 with a cursor, which makes it far easier to select links. It renders pages correctly and is fast enough to cope with large numbers of images and complicated formatting.

Nokia's E65 is an incredibly powerful smartphone that looks great and is easy on your pocket, both dimensionally and financially. It's the best smartphone currently on sale.

SMARTPHONE GSM 850/900/1,800/1,900, 3G 2,100, GPRS, EDGE, 3G data, 240x320-pixel LCD, 2-megapixel camera, 52MB internal memory, MicroSD card slot, USB, Bluetooth, IR, 802.11b/g connectivity, 115g **PART CODE** E65 **LATEST PRICE** £250 inc VAT SIM-free or free on £30-a-month contract from www.expansys.com (SIM-free), www.vodafone.co.uk, www.o2.co.uk, www.orange.co.uk, www.three.co.uk (contract) **DETAILS** www.nokia.co.uk **FULL REVIEW** Jul 2007



TOMTOM Go 720

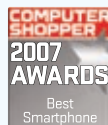
Standalone satnavs have gradually improved over the past couple of years, but TomTom's Go 720 is a real leap forward. It has the same easy-to-use and fast interface as previous TomToms, but its MapShare feature sets it apart.

MapShare lets you correct map errors. You can change the direction of a one-way street, correct street names and even add missing places and roads.

Go 720 is also an excellent navigator, with comprehensive voice prompts and a large, high-resolution screen. Add Bluetooth, an FM transmitter and excellent voice recognition, and it's this year's best satnav.



STANDALONE SATNAV 4.3in 480x272 resolution display, TomTom Navigator software, TeleAtlas Western European maps, 2GB internal storage, SD card slot, Bluetooth, FM transmitter, 118x24x83mm, 220g **PART CODE** 1M00.760 **LATEST PRICE** £283 inc VAT from www.ebuyer.com **DETAILS** www.tomtom.com **FULL REVIEW** Nov 2007



T-MOBILE MDA Mail

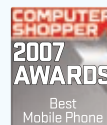
While Nokia's E65 is the best all-round internet smartphone we've seen this year, T-Mobile's MDA Mail is the best for messaging.

It has a full QWERTY keyboard, so typing messages is quicker than using a number pad and predictive text. The integrated email client can connect to POP3 and IMAP4 email servers, and supports Push email from a Microsoft Direct Push-enabled Exchange server. It can view Microsoft Word, Excel and PowerPoint documents, as well as PDFs. There's no wireless networking or 3G data, but the web browser is fine for simpler pages.

If you need to keep in touch on the move, T-Mobile's MDA Mail is perfect.



MESSAGING SMARTPHONE GSM 850/900/1,800/1,900, GPRS, EDGE data, 240x320 resolution LCD, 1.3-megapixel camera, 64MB internal memory, MicroSD card slot, USB, Bluetooth connectivity, 130g **PART CODE** MDA Mail **LATEST PRICE** Free on £20-a-month contract from www.t-mobile.co.uk **DETAILS** www.t-mobile.co.uk **FULL REVIEW** Jul 2007



SONY ERICSSON K800i

Mobile phones have had cameras for years, but the Sony Ericsson K800i's integrated 3-megapixel camera and Xenon flash make it the first camera phone with images good enough to print at large sizes.

It focuses and takes photos quickly. A BestPic mode takes nine pictures in less than a second and lets you choose the best one.

The K800i is easy to use, with large, colourful icons. The large screen has a high 240x320 resolution, which is perfect for displaying the photos you've taken. It's the best phone we've seen for taking photos.



MOBILE PHONE GSM 850/900/1,800/1,900, 3G 2,100, GPRS, EDGE, 3G data, 240x320 resolution LCD, 3-megapixel camera, 64MB internal memory, Memory Stick Micro slot, USB, Bluetooth, 115g **PART CODE** K800i **LATEST PRICE** £190 inc VAT SIM-free or free on £30-a-month contract from www.expansys.com (SIM-free), Vodafone/Orange/T-Mobile/O2 (contract) **DETAILS** www.sonyericsson.co.uk **FULL REVIEW** Dec 2006

HTC TyTN II

★★★★★

£485 SIM-free, £189 on £35-a-month contract

HTC's TyTN II is the follow-up to the TyTN (pronounced 'Titan'), which was also branded as the T-Mobile Vario II, Orange SPV M3100 and O₂ Xda Trion. Like the TyTN, it's a Windows Mobile smartphone with a slide-out QWERTY keyboard, but HTC has made some significant changes to the original design.

The first difference is the keyboard. We liked the TyTN's slide-out keyboard, which let you type messages and emails at a considerable rate, and the TyTN II's is even better. Once you've slid the screen up you can tilt it to a 45° angle over the keyboard, making the TyTN II look like a miniature notebook. In this position, it's much more comfortable to hold when typing, and you can also put it on a desk and type with your fingers.

The phone also has a built-in GPS receiver. There's no navigation software supplied, but you can install a third-party navigation package such as CoPilot Live and navigate without a separate Bluetooth GPS receiver. You also get a

3-megapixel camera, but it isn't as good as the Sony Ericsson K800i's. That's partly because there's no light, but also because it's slow to focus and photos lack contrast.

The TyTN II runs Windows Mobile 6 Professional, which is Microsoft's latest operating system for touchscreen phones. HTC has customised the home screen, and it's a significant improvement over the standard version. The icons are large enough to operate with your finger, so you don't have to reach for the stylus to check your messages or missed calls. The home screen also has buttons for your favourite contacts, the weather, common applications and phone profiles, so everything's in one place. A problem with Windows Mobile 6 is that when you close a program, it keeps running in the background; you have to use the memory application in the Settings menu to close it. The TyTN II gets around this

with a menu on the home screen to shut programs down.

Getting online is easy thanks to wireless networking that supports WEP and WPA encryption. When you're not near a hot spot you can use the fast HSDPA mobile data connection, if your mobile contract supports it.

Refreshingly, the TyTN II grabs the necessary data connection settings from your SIM card, so you don't have to key in obscure access point names to get online.

The standard Windows Mobile web browser runs fairly smoothly, but we'd recommend installing the superior Opera browser. Like all Windows Mobile 6 Professional phones, it can connect to POP3, IMAP and Microsoft Exchange servers, and supports Push Email with a Direct-Push enabled Exchange server. You can also edit Word and Excel documents with the built-in Office Mobile applications.

HTC's TyTN II is a powerful smartphone with a superb keyboard. If you want to stay in touch on the move but don't want to carry a notebook around, it's a good choice. We'd wait until the price drops before taking out a contract, though.

Chris Finnamore



SUMMARY

- ✓ Great keyboard
- ✓ Very powerful
- ✗ Expensive

SMARTPHONE GSM 850/900/1,800/1,900, 3G 850/1,900/2,100, GPRS, EDGE, 3G, HSDPA data, 240x320 resolution LCD, 3-megapixel camera, 256MB storage, microSD card slot, USB, Bluetooth, 802.11b/g connectivity, GPS receiver, 7 hours' talktime, 15 days' standby, 190g
PART CODE TyTN II
SUPPLIER www.expansys.com
DETAILS www.htc.com

PALM Treo 500v

★★★★★

Free on £30-per-month contract



The rumour mill suggests that a new version of the Palm operating system will soon be released, but we haven't seen any concrete evidence yet. In the meantime, Palm has released a new Windows Mobile-based smartphone.

Unlike Palm's first Windows Mobile smartphone, the 750v, the Treo 500v doesn't have a touchscreen. You control the 500v with a directional keypad and type with the integrated QWERTY keyboard, which we find easier than using a touchscreen and stylus.

Palm has completely redesigned the Windows Mobile operating system so it's easier to use. Instead of containing a long list of programs and options, the Start menu is now arranged in tabs, with each tab representing a category. There are eight tabs, each of which gives you a set of programs and options. This makes it easy to find a certain feature and keeps the number of options in each category down. The operating system is responsive and the slick

menu animations and high-resolution icons make the 500v a pleasure to use.

The 500v is a good-looking smartphone, too. With its round edges, metallic grey and silver finish and big buttons, it looks more stylish than most Windows Mobile phones. It's also got a great screen, with a high-contrast glossy finish. It has the same 320x240 resolution of most Windows Mobile phones but text is smoothed, making it easy to read. The keypad's keys are small: you get used to them, but typing is nowhere near as fast as on HTC's TyTN II.

It's simple to set up a POP3 or IMAP email account using the account wizard, as the phone downloads settings for major email services such as Hotmail, Yahoo! and Google Mail. There are also links to the most common email providers' webmail services, and Windows Live Messenger is preinstalled,

which makes messaging much cheaper than sending text messages. Sadly, the 500v doesn't arrange text messages in chat threads like the 750v.

Web browsing is taken care of by Pocket Internet Explorer, which is fine for most webpages but struggles with complicated formatting and large numbers of images. Google Maps is also installed. This streams mapping information over the phone's 3G data connection and caches it in the phone's flash storage, so you don't have to reload maps you've looked at previously. The maps load quickly and work well, but you should sign up to an unlimited data tariff if you intend to use them regularly. The 500v doesn't have 802.11g wireless networking, so you're dependent on the Vodafone network for data.

Palm's Treo 500v is a huge improvement on most Windows Mobile smartphones. Its customised operating system is easier to use, it comes with some useful software preinstalled and the various wizards quickly guide you through setting up your messaging. It's also free on a mobile phone contract, so is great value.

Chris Finnamore



SUMMARY

- ✓ Looks great
- ✓ Easy to use
- ✓ Good value

SMARTPHONE GSM 900/1,800/1,900, 3G 2,100, GPRS, 3G data, 320x240 resolution LCD, 2-megapixel camera, 150MB storage, MicroSD card slot, USB, Bluetooth connectivity, 4½ hours' talk time, 10 days' standby, 120g
PART CODE 1060IE-VFN SUPPLIER www.vodafone.co.uk DETAILS www.palm.com